

At 6:10 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Brett Hunter, Greta St Germain, and Annmarie Scribner; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

There was a discussion about the Planning Board meeting last night regarding escrow accounting for excavation operations. There was discussion about how to account for this money, as the Town cannot take it in and expend it without a line item appropriation.

Selectmen reviewed minutes, bills, and the mail folder.

At 6:20 pm Richard Laughton of the Teamsters came into the meeting. Introductions were done around the table. It was clarified that "Strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining" are not considered public meetings in accord with NH RSA 91-A:2; thus it was a closed session.

Selectmen had general discussion with Laughton about putting together a Police Union contract, some of the bargaining items which may be included, and the process overall.

The Board returned to their regular posted meeting at 7:00 pm; and Mr Laughton left the meeting.

At 7:03 pm Department Head Richard Butler came into the meeting. He presented a sample abutter letter to the Board for review and any comments. This will be sent to the abutters to the property to be burned at 179 Sandown Road. Carlson will prepare the abutters list and envelopes for his use.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 29 April 2010. Scribner moved to approve the minutes as amended with typographical corrections. St Germain seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.

2. Carlson advised that Vision Appraisal Technology began working on the Town's statistical update this week, following a meeting with NH DRA and MRI. A Press Release has been issued and posted to advise of the steps involved in the process. A Vision Data Collector is in the field now reviewing the sales which have occurred in the past two years.

3. Work continued on the Financial Policy, with several sections upgraded and discussion about changes and additions. The updates will be included for the next draft to be reviewed.

The Ethics Policy was discussed further with changes and updates made. A potentially final draft will be put together for another review.

4. Jay Somers had not sent the follow-up email containing full detail on the cable access updates as were discussed last week. That information is pending for the Public Hearing on May 13th. Carlson indicated that the Town's Auditor at NH DRA had been contacted for advice on the provisions of RSA 31:95-b. Because this money is not something that was unanticipated by the Town (it has been on the warrant for two years and defeated); that statute cannot legally be used to accept and expend it.

The Board will await further information and input from the public at the Hearing on May 13.

Renee King came in to the meeting at 8:10 pm. She came representing the Parks & Recreation Commission, in follow-up to an email from Nicole Cloutier. She discussed the ideas presented by Cloutier for increasing the sense of community and family associated with Memorial Day by having a field event following the parade and ceremony. King read from an email sent by Cloutier:

Our goal in this Memorial Day Celebration following the Memorial Day parade is to encourage community involvement. As a kid in Fremont, I have fond memories of Memorial Day parades and many pictures of the children and families involved in not only our Parade and Ceremonies, but also exciting activities and cookouts to follow. At one point, Fremont hosted Memorial Day cookouts, games including a softball/baseball throw in which a local police officer would use a radar gun to clock the speed of a ball then award the fastest pitch with a prize. There was a basketball free-throw competition and dunk-tank to name a few. Being the Coordinator of the Fremont Playgroup I have a great opportunity to communicate with the youth of our Town and families and am consistently alarmed to find that many are looking elsewhere to plant their "roots," sometimes stating that they would enjoy a greater sense of "community." After joining the Parks and Recreation I have tried to make it a goal of mine to foster that sense of community to the families and residents in Fremont. This is why I/We thought it would bring a great sense of pride to honor our Veterans, both past and present, in making the Memorial Day celebration one which brings families and community members together and encourages the attendance of our parade and ceremonies for all to enjoy.

Our goal is not to make an "amusement park" out of an honorable holiday, but to encourage more people to attend this honor and be a part of the sense of pride that Fremont has to offer.

These are the events that we would like to include:

- *A bouncy house-\$180 including drop off, setup and pick-up*
- *A cookout with donations of food, also selling hot-dogs, burgers, potato and pasta salad at a low price to regain funds used to purchase food*
- *Face painting*
- *a dunk tank (not yet priced out)*
- *Ice-cream*
- *fastpitch competition*
- *basketball free-throw competition*
- *hand-outs from Oriental Trading Co.*

I have also received confirmation for at least 8 volunteers for the celebration

Carlson said that she had talked with the NH Local Government Center about the "bouncy house" and dunking booth, in terms of insurance coverage. Adequate adult supervision (in addition to parents watching their own children) is required, and they are covered activities.

In response to a question, King said she does not anticipate the cost of the event being more than a couple hundred dollars. There is money budgeted for the Memorial Day event under Town Events in the Parks & Recreation budget.

There was discussion about any health regulations around food, and whether to charge or just accept any donations people wanted to put toward the cost offset. It was suggested that they need to contact the Health Officer for more direction, and King will pass this information on to organizer Nicole Cloutier.

She described it as a community-building celebration, which the Selectmen said they supported.

King left the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest \$33,884.64 for the current week dated 05/07/2010. Scribner offered her thanks to Jeanne Nygren for the time in organizing the bill folder for the Board's review. St Germain moved to approve the accounts payable manifest in the amount of \$33,884.64. Scribner seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.
3. Selectmen talked further about the integrity of North Road to prevent further erosion, and the Town's efforts to make some shoulder repairs. The safety issue is a longer term matter and includes a guardrail at this corner. The Board discussed talking again with the Road Agent about exactly what repairs are needed, and trying to communicate with the Millers. The Board expressed concern that the integrity of the road will continue to deteriorate if not fixed. There was also discussion about the Town's or contractor's obligation to fix what was damaged only.
4. Selectmen reviewed a request from JoAnn Dillow to use Town Hall chairs and tables. Motion was made by Hunter and seconded by St Germain to approve this use. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0. The items were requested to be picked up on Thursday and this may not be possible pending on the Town's Public Hearing scheduled at the Hall that evening.
5. Carlson presented a memo and several permits for the Board's review on the Pollinger property at 6 Pollinger Road (parcel 05-057.001.001). This home was damaged heavily in a fire last August, and there is a permit for a replacement home, a residential garage, and a temporary trailer. Selectmen reviewed the memorandum from Thom Roy and discussed the permitting fee for a replacement home. Roy has stated that past practice on such a fee is to provide some credit to the homeowner for the fee. He suggested that the Pollinger's be credited the \$600 of their original home permit fee. The new house is almost double in size, and the Board did not feel it appropriate to credit the entire fee of over \$3,000. There was discussion about the new garage/barn permit, which Pollinger has stated is for his own personal, residential use.

The Board agreed to waive \$600 of the building permit fee on the replacement home, and that the other permit fees would be as calculated by Roy. The Board also agreed with a six month permit for a temporary trailer to be used at the site during reconstruction of the home. The forms and information will be returned to the Building Inspector to finalize processing.
6. Selectmen reviewed an Excavation Tax Warrant Levy \$240.00 for the 2009-2010 tax year for parcel 03-002. Scribner moved to levy the warrant. St Germain seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
7. Selectmen reviewed and signed an Intent to Excavate for the 2010-2011 Tax Year on the Ferwerda Property, parcel 03-002.
8. Selectmen discussed a tax refund question regarding parcel 02-149.003. There was lengthy discussion about the payments, totaling \$2,700 which had been made in good faith toward property taxes by the owners, in conjunction with their mortgage company paying the 2009 property taxes.

Scribner outlined her recollection of accepting the payments, as she was the Tax Collector during the period of time the payments were made. She indicated they were asked to be left on their account toward the first issue 2010 tax bill.

A foreclosure is scheduled on the property and the landowner is having difficulty working with their mortgage company.

The landowner was advised a few weeks ago to submit a letter in writing making the request, which has not yet been received. Carlson spoke with the landowner outside of the Board's meeting this evening gathering some additional data, and asked for that letter to be submitted to the Town as soon as possible.

Carlson and Tax Collector Kathy Arsenault had discussed it and were advised by the State of NH DRA to contact Kathy Seaver or another seasoned Tax Collector from the NH Tax Collector's Association to see what policy should be in this type of situation. Arsenault had contacted Ms Seaver and been advised that the Town should not refund the money. This situation does not appear to be covered in Statute, and will continue to be researched.

9. Carlson provided some follow-up on the Grant Writing Workshop on Tuesday, which Carlson and Chief Butler attended.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. St Germain said she spoke with Deb Moulton in Epping, a QuickBooks consultant. She offered that there were ways to set up the system with different user licenses with differing levels of permission.
2. There was further discussion about the computer consulting companies who have been asked to come in and do evaluations of the Town's systems and setup. Carlson advised that one meeting was set up for next week, and that the Town's IT consultant was also due in late next week.

NEXT WEEK

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday May 13, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The Cable Access Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 pm.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by St Germain and seconded by Scribner to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator